के इलाज के लिए आपके पास कोई ऐसी स्कीम है ? आप इस में क्या मदद करेंगे ?

श्री बलराम जाखड़ : ठीक है, माननीय सदस्य ने जो कहा है कि एक नई बीमारी चली है जिसकी वजह से एक करोड़ से ज्यादा चिक्स आंध्र प्रदेश और उसके आस पास के इलाकों में मरे हैं। इसके लिए पूरी इंवेस्टिगेशन की गई । हमारी रिसर्च यूनिट्स ने उनका पता लगाया कि मसला क्या है। There has to be a systematic vaccination of the chickens and the birds. उनको कहा गया कि ठीक ढंग से सफाई रखिए तो यह बीमारी नहीं होगी । इसके साथ ही जो मरे हैं उनको ठीक से नहीं दबाया जाएगा तो भी बीमारी फैलेगी । इसके लिए हमने रेडियो से और दूसरे प्रचार माध्यमों से उनको बताया है । आइंदा ऐसी चीज न हो, इसके लिए उनको बताया गया है कि जब तक बीमारी ठीक न हो जाए तब तक कच्चे न डाले जायें । Because it is a very devastating disease we have to take cognizance of it so that in future such things should not happen.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: What about providing insurance and compensation to them.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: That has to be done by the farmers themselves because this is such a disease that even the insurance people will feel shy of doing it. So, we must be prepared to undertake all the clinical methods to avert such a catastrophe.

Multiple use Amaranthus

*445. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Amaranthus' has had multiple uses in India over a long time both as leafy vegetable and as grain which is used in sweets;

(b) whether any status report has been brought out on this by Rodale Research Institute of Pennsylvania (USA) as this plant is considered to be of very high potential in alleviating hunger; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up a task force on Amaranthus propagation at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the answer is very wonderful. He just said, "Yes, Sir" and "No, Sir".

Sir, 'Amaranthus' is a plant of the tropics. There are about 60 varieties of this plant, out of which 25 varieties are commonly known in our country. They are used both as grain and *subji* which are popularly know as 'Ramdhana' and 'Anardhana' in the northern belt of the country. In Kannada it is known as 'Aravaisppu' and in Tamil as 'Pongaikeepa. It is only used by the poor people of this country. It is used as a food for both human beings and animals. Now it is considered so important that a special magazine is coming out. On 18th December, 1992, I had asked a question in this august House. In spite of my specific quesqtion the hon. Minister has not answered the main thrust of the question. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether a gene bank exists for this plant. I would like to know where it is and how many varieties are there I would like to know what the new knowledge collected on the nutritional aspect is, besides what had already been recorded in the Wealth of India in 1948.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Sir, it is a very good protein source and it is mostly grown in the Himalayan region and the central hills. It is taken as a leafy vegetable and as a grain also. It is not called 'Anardhana'. 'Anardhana' is made of 'Anar'. But this is 'Ramdhana'. That is what it is called. We are com-

pletely aware of the thing that it has a potential for feeding those people who are lacking in proteins. We have got research units. We have got research units at Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, IARI Delhi, Velakantale and Bangalore. In all these places we have got research units to look into and take care of the genes so that we can develop more. There are two varieties, one is grain variety and the other leafy vegetable. The grain variety produces about 20 quintals to 22 quintals per hectare if sown separately and the leafy vegetable can give us about 20 tonnes per hectare. As a leafy vegetable this is a very good source of protein and lysine. The percentage of lysine in this is double that of wheat and three times that of than rice and maize. It is very productive and it has to be propagated.

Gene bank—Delhi. Three thousand types at Shima and one thousand types at Akola. There are 12 research centres in the country. This is what I have said.

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Sir, apart from Himachal Pradesh and the northern parts of the country, even in the southern regions this plant is grown, especially in Tamil Nadu where it is called *Pungaikeerai*. In Karnataka it is known as *Aravi Soppu*. Sir, to my second question—whether Government proposes to set up a task force for Amaranthus propagation at the earliest—the answer given is 'no'. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the reasons for failing to draw up a plan for promoting this traditional plant on a large scale which would be very useful for the poor masses of this country.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, we are taking steps to popularise it and we have also put aside Rs. 1.14 crores for the purpose in the Eighth Plan and about Rs. 15 lakhs will be spent this year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 446.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Whenever my name comes in a ballot, I like it to be on Friday because then I have a chance even if my question is lower down... *(Interruptions)*...

SIR. CHAIRMAN: I am glad you are here.

Filling up of vacant posts in K. V.

*446. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1647 given in Rajya Sabha on the 6th August, 1993 and state:

(a) the names of Kendriya Vidyalaya where there is shortage of teachers especially in Secondary Classes, discipline-wise;

(b) what are the reasons for shortage of teachers in these schools; and

(c) the steps taken by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to fill up the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Post Graduate Teachers (PGTs), Trained Graduate Teachers (TGTs) and Miscellaneous category teachers like Physical Education Teachers (PET), Work Experience Teachers (WET) and Drawing Teachers are required to teach secondary classes. As on 30-4-1993, out of 17670 sanctioned posts of these categories of teachers, 4729 were vacant in the country as a whole. In Delhi, 15 posts of PGTs, 20 of TGTs and 19 of Miscellenceous category were vacant on 30-4-1993. The list of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Delhi mentioning the vacancies category-wise is annexed (*See* below)

The vacancies have arisen due to promotion, retirement and increased requirement due to opening of new schools or due to upgradation of schools. Some more time has been taken in filling up the vacancies because the recruitment was got delayed. Now both promotions and recruitments have been put on proper footing and the vacancies are expected to be filled up soon.